



KINGDOM EMBASSY MINISTRIES

Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority. Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom.

Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 4:13-25
- Heb. 11:17-19; John 3:15-21
- I Corinthians 15:12-19

Title:

THE EMPTY WOMB

- Heirs by Faith
- Hope Contrary to Hope
- From the Womb to the Tomb

SEED:

"And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), **and the deadness of Sarah's womb**. He **did not waver at the promise** of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and **being fully convinced** that what He had promised He was also able to perform. **And therefore** "it was accounted to him for righteousness."" Romans 4:19-22 NKJV

FRUIT:

"It shall be **imputed to us who believe** in Him who **raised** up Jesus our Lord **from the dead**," Romans 4:24 NKJV

"that if you **confess with your mouth** the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has **raised Him from the dead**, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 NKJV

"For **if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen**. And **if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!**" I Corinthians 15:16-17 NKJV

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE:

A lot can be said about the most basic tenets of the Christian faith, but maybe none is more essential than life from the dead. That's right, Christianity hinges on the resurrection. It's an absurd assertion to all but those who are already in the faith. Why is that? Man only understands the things of man because within him is the spirit of man. It takes the Spirit of God to know the things of God and thus, the gospel is foolishness to those who are perishing. In other words, those who need it don't have the vision to see it!

Think about it; if you use a logical thought process to contemplate the redemption story, it is simply ridiculous. God created mankind; he sinned and brought death into the world; He launched a plan to redeem fallen man; it includes Him becoming a man Himself, born as a baby; He would grow up as a normal child, become an adult, and at a specific time would step into His ministry, which would reveal His true nature and purpose. His mission would require Him to be sacrificed on a cross, so His shed blood could cover all the sins of mankind, past, present and future. Then, He'd be buried in a tomb as if defeated, only to

resurrect in victory to a new life. And all you need to do to participate in this universal forgiveness of sin program, and to be redeemed to live forever in the presence of a Holy God, instead of the eternal flames of hell, is to believe this story. Accept the invitation to become His bride and you will be saved. Got it?

Okay, so we can all agree now that absent an antecedent intervention by God, we don't have a shot at believing in the resurrection. The gospel is foolishness to those who are perishing. And that is the true beauty. God imparts His grace which gifts us the faith to believe and when our blind eyes are set free, we can see! And the deeper we look the more we see. Abraham was promised he'd be the father of many nations and he believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness. It was there all along. Sarah, Abraham's wife was barren; her womb was dead. It had remained empty for her entire life—all eighty-nine years. But then something happened. Life came from death. God allowed this elderly woman and her husband ten years her senior to conceive. From her empty dead womb came life. When her only begotten son was birthed, again her womb was empty. But, this time as a testimony to the resurrection—life from death. And later, the father of this only son, born out of a once dead womb, was asked to sacrifice him, putting to the test the promise that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in all the heavens and the sands on all the seashores.

And is this not what we are asked to believe about Christ? And even a step further, not just the willingness of a Father to sacrifice His Son, but the very deed itself. God's righteousness is imputed to all those who believe this Son was raised from the dead. Simply confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God has raised up the Lord Jesus from the dead and you will be saved. There is no other way because if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile and you are still dead in your sins!

HEIRS BY FAITH

1. Before the Law there was Faith

A. Faith before Law

(1) The elephant in the room!

(a) Faith and all the promises that come with it, came before the law.

1. "For **the promise** that he would be the heir of the world **was not** to Abraham or to his seed **through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.**" Romans 4:13 NKJV

B. How do you identify an heir?

(1) Look for their faith!

(a) If heirs could be identified by their adherence to the law, it would make faith irrelevant when it comes to God's promise.

1. "For **if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.**" Romans 4:14-15 NKJV

- (2) If there is nothing to define sin, then one might assume nothing we do will offend God. (Peek ahead to Romans 7)
- (a) No Law! No Sin! No Savior!
1. "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, **I would not have known sin except through the law.** For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. **For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.** And the commandment, which was to **bring life, I found to bring death.** For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. **Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.**" Romans 7:7-12 NKJV
 2. *"But now we have been delivered from the law, having **died to what we were held by** [believing salvation is achieved by obeying the law voids faith], so that we should serve in the **newness of the Spirit [recognizing salvation is by grace through faith]** and not in the oldness of the letter."* Romans 7:6 NKJV
- (3) Without God's intervention you would not even recognize the remedy because it makes no sense to the natural mind.
- (a) That is why it is crucial that faith come first!
1. "For **the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,** but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:18 NKJV
 2. "But **God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. **For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?** Even so no one knows the things of God **except the Spirit of God.** Now we have received [again], not the spirit of the world [the spirit of the man], but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God [the option to be animated by the Holy Spirit and not the human spirit]." I Corinthians 2:10-12 NKJV
 3. "But **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him;** nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Corinthians 2:14 NKJV
 4. *"We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that **just as Christ was raised from the dead** by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life.** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, **certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,**"* Romans 6:4-5 NKJV

- (b) It is by grace through faith that the gospel of salvation suddenly makes senses (no longer foolishness)!
1. "For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that **not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.**" Ephesians 2:8 NKJV
- (1) Faith then Law! Why? (Coming full circle!)
- (a) "For **the promise** that he would be the heir of the world **was not** to Abraham or to his seed **through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.**" Romans 4:13 NKJV
 1. "Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, **no one annuls or adds to it.** Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "**And to your Seed,**" **who is Christ.** And this I say, that **the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ**, that it should make **the promise of no effect.** For **if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.**" Galatians 3:15-18 NKJV
 2. "who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did." (Romans 4:17)
 3. And... "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1).
 4. "**who, contrary to hope, in hope believed**, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And not being weak in faith, **he did not consider his own body, already dead** (since he was about a hundred years old), **and the deadness of Sarah's womb.**" Romans 4:18-19 NKJV
- (2) And let's come full circle...
- (a) The law was added to clearly demarcate sin!
 1. "What purpose then does the law serve? **It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made;** and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator." Galatians 3:19 NKJV
- (3) And if you think that once you are born-again you no longer have a need to be pointed toward Y'shua, think again.
- (a) The law will remain your tutor...
 1. "And **if you are Christ's**, then you are **Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**" Galatians 3:29 NKJV
 2. "Now I say that the heir, **as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave**, though he is master of all, but **is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.**" Galatians 4:1-2 NKJV

(b) What time is that?

1. "Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But **when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son**, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption as sons**. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" **Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son**, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." Galatians 4:3-7 NKJV
2. "My **little children**, for **whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you**,
" Galatians 4:19 NKJV
3. "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers [the Church], for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the **unity of the faith** and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to a **perfect man**, to **the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ** [Christ is fully formed in you]; that we should **no longer be children**, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may **grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ**—" Ephesians 4:11-15 NKJV

HOPE CONTRARY TO HOPE

2. Calling things which do not exist into existence...

A. ...that it might be according to grace!

(1) Seed defined!

(a) Children of Faith

1. "Therefore **it is of faith that it might be according to grace**, so that the **promise** might be sure **to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham**, who is the father of us all." Romans 4:16 NKJV
2. "though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a **Hebrew of the Hebrews**; concerning the law, a **Pharisee**; concerning zeal, **persecuting the church**; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless." Philippians 3:4-6 NKJV

(2) Life from the dead!

(a) So shall your descendants be...

1. "(as it is written, "**I have made you a father of many nations**") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and **calls those things which do**

not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, **“So shall your descendants be.”** Romans 4:17-18 NKJV

FROM THE WOMB TO THE TOMB

3. Life from the Womb

A. Sarah's Womb

(1) Fully Convinced (and therefore!)

(a) How did Abraham pull off such an impossible assignment?

1. “And **not being weak in faith**, he did not consider **his own body, already dead** (since he was about a hundred years old), and **the deadness of Sarah's womb**. **He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief**, but was **strengthened in faith, giving glory to God**, and being **fully convinced** that **what He had promised He was also able to perform.**” Romans 4:19-21 NKJV

(2) Is this just a history lesson? Let it not be!

(a) The account of Abraham was to teach us that the promises of Yahweh are fulfilled in all those who have faith.

1. “And **therefore** “it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Romans 4:22 NKJV
2. “*Was not Abraham our father **justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?***” James 2:21 NKJV
3. “*and what is **the exceeding greatness of His power [grace] toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power [grace] which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,***” Ephesians 1:19-20 NKJV

B. It was there all along for us to see!

(1) Imputed to us who believe that life can come from the dead (life from Sarah's Dead Womb)

(a) Raised from the dead, like Isaac was raised from Sarah's dead womb!

1. “Now **it was not written for his sake alone** that it was **imputed** to him, **but also for us**. **It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead**, who was **delivered up because of our offenses**, and was **raised because of our justification.**” Romans 4:23-25 NKJV

(2) The only begotten Son(s)

(a) Isaac

1. “**By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac** [Genesis 22:1-19], and he who had received the promises offered up **his only begotten son**, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even

from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.” Hebrews 11:17-19 NKJV

(b) Y’shua

1. “that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world **that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of **the only begotten Son of God.**” John 3:15-18 NKJV

(c) Condemnation for all those who don’t believe in the only begotten Son.

1. ““And this is the **condemnation**, that **the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil **hates the light** and does not come to the light, **lest his deeds should be exposed.** But **he who does the truth comes to the light**, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”” John 3:19-21 NKJV

(3) And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then you are still dead!

(a) How do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

1. “Now **if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?** But **if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.** Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because **we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.** For **if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.** And if Christ is not risen, **your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!** Then also **those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.**” I Corinthians 15:12-19 NKJV